

**NORM MCCLURE RECOGNIZED
AT THE NATIONAL GRAZING LANDS CONFERENCE**

(Spokane, WA December 16, 2003)--Over 1,100 ranchers and other conservation leaders from all over the Nation gathered last week in Nashville, Tennessee. Gus Hughbanks, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist said, "The focus of the Second National Conference on Grazing Lands was to conserve natural resources on the nation's grazing lands."

Hughbanks continued, "The highlight of the conference for me was to recognize one of Washington State's leaders in conservation - Norm McClure of Nespelem. Norm has spent the majority of his life in dedication and support of maintaining grazing lands in the State. He has played a big role in the Coordinated Resource Management Committees and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative. Norm is truly a leader in conservation efforts for the State."

The National Conference on Grazing Lands is sponsored through the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), a national coalition of agricultural organizations, conservation organizations and government agencies who recognize the need to keep the nation's rangelands productive, while conserving their resources for future generations.

"Well over a thousand people attended this conference which is a clear indication of the increased interest in grazing lands," said Hughbanks. "Grazing is finally being recognized as an important tool to achieve conservation objectives, rather than something that is bad for the environment."

Individuals interested in receiving a copy of the conference proceedings, or in learning more about GLCI can contact Ron Shavlik, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist at (306) 704-7780 or email - ron.shavlik@wa.usda.gov